

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 09400 241229Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07

NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-02 /071 W

----- 050344

R 241206Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5461

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BEIRUT 9400

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, BGEN, LE

SUBJ: DEPARTURE OF BECHTEL FROM BEIRUT

REF: KUWAIT 3067; BEIRUT 8193

1. BECHTEL DECISION TO PULL OUT OF BEIRUT REPRESENTS BY FAR THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE OF RECENT EVENTS ON USE OF BEIRUT AS A REGIONAL BUSINESS CENTER. BECHTEL WAS A RELATIVELY RECENT ARRIVAL AND, AFTER A MODEST START, HAD EXPANDED ITS OPERATION TO BECOME BY FAR THE LARGEST TENANT (SIX FLOORS) IN THE CITY'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS (AND MOST EXPENSIVE) BUSINESS CENTER.

2. GREATEST FEAR OF CAUSE IS WHETHER BECHTEL'S DECISION WILL START SOME SORT OF CHAIN REACTION, FOR,
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UP TO NOW, EFFECTS OF THE DISTURBANCES, AS PREVIOUSLY

REPORTED (BEIRUT 8193, PARA 7), HAD BEEN SURPRISINGLY MODEST IN THE CONTEXT OF FIRMS LEAVING BEIRUT.

3. HEAD OF BECHTEL'S BEIRUT OPERATION, THIELE, INFORMED AMBASSADOR ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO THAT HE WAS RECOMMENDING THAT HOME OFFICE DELAY DECISION. HE NOW INFORMS US THAT HE WAS OVERRULED. MOREOVER, PULLOUT FROM BEIRUT WILL BE TOTAL, RATHER THAN PARTIAL, AS ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED.
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESS FIRMS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT09400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750255-0549
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750723/aaaaauku.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KUWAIT 3067, 75 BEIRUT 8193
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTURE OF BECHTEL FROM BEIRUT
TAGS: EGEN, BGEN, LE, BECHTEL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006